

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

UPDATE

2006-2007

The following is an update of the activities of the Office of the Washington State Insurance Commissioner's Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program. The last report contained data from March 1 – June 30, 2006.

The Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program serves as an intermediary between the claimants and the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC). The program has helped Washington Holocaust claimants resolve processing delays and collect awards. During the last year, we worked on 57 claimant files and assisted them with offers on Holocaust era life insurance totaling \$170,354.

After more than eight years in operation, ICHEIC finished its work and officially shut its doors on March 30, 2007. In a detailed report, issued March 20 this year, ICHEIC documented the receipt of more than 90,000 claims. Of those claims, more than 48,000 received an offer or award. The total payment to claimants was \$306.24 million.

ICHEIC provided the following information on our claimants:

- 860 claims from Washington State were filed with ICHEIC.
- 277 Washington claimants received offers. (203 of these claimants filed through our Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program.)
- 148 claimants received \$1,000 humanitarian awards. (115 of these claimants filed through our Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program.)
- A grand total of \$2,391,696.46 was paid to all Washington claimants. (Out of this amount, \$1,054,930.68 went to claimants receiving assistance from the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program.)

Despite the end of ICHEIC, consumers can still obtain information on the Commission and its past activities on their website at www.icheic.org. In addition, key documents from the Commission, including decision memoranda and meeting minutes, are being maintained by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The Office of the Washington State Insurance Commissioner also continues to maintain information on our Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program on our website at www.insurance.wa.gov.

The Washington State Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program will continue to provide information and assistance to state claimants who need further help

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getting information on any claims filed through ICHEIC, or who may still be eligible to file Holocaust era claims directly with insurance companies.

Consumers with concerns or questions about their Holocaust era insurance claims are encouraged to contact our office for assistance. Call us toll-free at 1-800-562-6900 and ask for either Mary Childers or Chris Bauer, or e-mail them at marych@oic.wa.gov or chrisb@oic.wa.gov.



www.insurance.wa.gov

Mike Kreidler - *State Insurance Commissioner*

